



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

February 4, 2004

Senator Stephen Johnson, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
107 Newhouse Building  
Post Office Box 40447  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0447

Dear Senator Johnson:

I am writing as the chair of State Board of Health's Committee on Children's Health and Well-Being to share the Board's support for the goals of SB 6523, related to improving the delivery of health care services for school-aged children, which is scheduled to be heard by your committee Friday, February 6. The Board's regulatory authority includes immunization, newborn screening, scoliosis screening, and hearing and vision screening. In addition, the Board has made protecting and improving the health, safety, and well-being of children an on-going policy priority.

We need to increase children's access to school health services. The *Staff Model for the Delivery of School Health Services* produced by the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission and the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in April of 2000, and in *Healthy People 2010*, produced by the US Department of Health and Human Services in November of 2000, both offer constructive guidelines on school nurse-to-student ratios.

The Board has also endorsed the Governor's supplemental budget proposal that would add 25 part-time slots to the School Nurse Corps as a first step toward increasing children's access to school health services. The State Board of Health's Approved Work Plan for 2003-05 includes major efforts to improve the health and well being of *all* children in public schools, including establishment of a Comprehensive School Health and Social Service Plan.

In sum, the Board supports the goals of this bill related to improving the delivery of health care services for school-aged children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH  
Chair, Children's Health and Well-Being Committee

cc: Senate Education Committee Members  
Senator Alex Deccio  
Representative David Quall  
State Board of Health Members  
Don Sloma, State Board of Health  
Steve Meyers, Department of Health  
Greg Williamson, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction